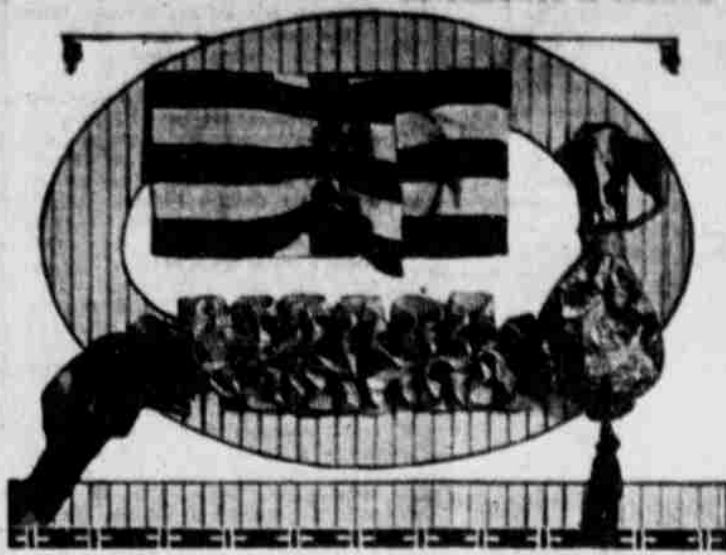


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## Some Fads of the Late Summer



In line with the fad for black and white a wide girdle is made of ribbon showing alternate stripes of white satin and black velvet. It is fastened at the front under a shallow loop of the ribbon, ornamented by a row of covered velvet buttons. Such a belt looks well with black and white striped skirts or all white. Or it may be worn with frocks in gay colors where it serves to tone down the brilliant but fashionable shades.

A short neck ruff is made of black satin ribbon having a narrow white border striped with black. It is sewed to a band of narrower black satin ribbon in full triple box plaits. The edges of the plaits are caught together to form the ruff. A bow and ends of plain black satin ribbon finish the neckpiece which fastens with snap fasteners at the front.

A bag of black and gold beaded ribbon is sewed to a gilt frame that opens out at the top. It is finished with a black silk tassel pendant from the bottom and suspended by short loops of narrow satin ribbon. This is one of the prettiest of many new bags. Hostess, shoes, handbags and purses have all swung into the black and white vogue. Stockings are shown in white having a crossbar in black, in small checkerboard design, in stripes and polka dots. Shoes employ black and white leathers combined in about equal proportions or are in all black.

outlined with white, or white outlined with black. Belts have also entered the running, and in combinations of white kid and black patent leather they have captured the honors.  
JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

## New Petticoats.

The phases of the new petticoats are many. We have princess slips of silk, batiste, crepe de chine, held over the shoulders with straps of ribbon and elaborately trimmed about the hem with wide flounces of lace, plaited organdies, chiffon or net, caught here and there with bouquets of delicately tinted French flowers. They measure from four to six yards about the hem, and sometimes little 1845 pantaloons, made of materials to match the petticoat are worn beneath.

## Jumpers Again.

A pretty garment. Jumped into fashion. It is especially for youth. And hence middle age will wear it. Navy blue serge and taffeta build them mostly. They are heavier suspenders than they were before. Sometimes there are two straps over the shoulders instead of one, thereby lending dignity.

## The Voice of the Farmer

To the Editor of The Observer

The great poet, Schiller, says in his "Lay of the Bell":  
"For where the rugged and the fair  
Wherever strength and weakness  
pair;

"The sound rings out in true accord,"  
and further:

"See, the bubbles rise, the masses  
Have been melted by the blast,  
Make it with the salt of ashes  
Quickly ready for the cast."

If we will grasp the spirit of Schiller's words, and his creative imagination, we realize that these lines are allegory, teaching us that Nature requires that the strong soil be combined with the weak, for only then can the sound—the result—be true and fair. No weak hothouse plants grow on hard, strong, rocky soil. The soil is too strong, and this strong, rocky soil needs a contrasting a peaty soil, soft or weak, and both must be thoroughly mixed to obtain the normalization of the plant food. Only where strength and weakness pair is the result a true accord. The same law rules human life. Wherever in men and women the rugged and the fair, strength and weakness are not fittingly paired, there can be no true accord. This law governs the universe.

The planter and the farmer should therefore perceive that it is presently necessary that the soft humus or vegetable soil, of which the Creator gave us as large stores as of coal, be mixed with the hard, sandy soil, and the hard sandy soil should be combined with the soft humus, vegetable soil, marsh soil or peat.

Wherever powerful forces are created they are the result of sharp contrasts or polarities. I need only remind those who read this article of the strong air currents in the atmosphere, by which the life and nutrition of plants is so greatly influenced. Without the polar action of hot and cold air, making for exchange of unity, the mighty forces which stir up the atmosphere would be lacking. The same forces that are active in the normalization of the air is used for the normalization of the soil and of the human blood.

Schiller says: "The masses have been melted by the blast," but these masses—these food materials—are not ready to be cast until they are combined with a binding material, such as the nutritive salts. Therefore Schiller continues: "Make it with the salt of ashes, quickly ready for the cast," and in these lines the poet has immovably solved the great problem of the world—the destruction of the weevil pests. We cannot, of

course, construe Schiller's words literally, their hidden meaning is only made clear to us by means of our imaginative faculty guiding us on the way to true knowledge, and thereby becoming the true creator of cultural spiritual life on earth. Life on earth is made up of unceasing changes. Land is changed into sea, and the seas build up continents. The hard, set rock disintegrates and is changed into loose soil, nourishing the plants upon which animal and human life depends. Thus change the forms of created things, and there is nothing lasting upon earth. The mountains will disintegrate in the torrent of ages, like the fairest flower and the proudest products of human ingenuity. And yet nothing is ever destroyed, but all things are merely changed in form and from the raw material and the lowly developed organisms, higher and nobler forms arise. Eternal change means eternal progress—the unending transformation of matter.

The soil is not only worked over for the purpose of mixing it, but principally to give free access to the air, which is indispensable for the combination and amalgamation of the different nourishing substances in the soil. Man needs air, and plenty of it, and the more fresh air he breathes day and night, the healthier he will be, because the combination of air with nourishing substances is the great creator of vitality. He who desires to enjoy perfect digestion must be careful to continually breathe good air.

The same is true of all organisms, and especially of the organisms of the soil. The soil cannot digest its food if it gets no air, or obtains it only in small quantities. It needs a large supply of air to form the necessary combination, with the nourishing substances it contains. The normal functions of the lungs and stomach of man and animals are dependent on a liberal supply of air, and all the plants we cultivate demand a large quantity. The soil must be frequently and deeply plowed, harrowed and worked over, the weeds must be destroyed, and the air must be given free access. Well-aerated soil, rich in nutritive salts, assures fine early crops. Natural and intelligent care of the health of the soil repays the farmer for all his labor. When in perfect health, it will be able to withstand heat, cold or storms, and plants grown on normal soil, rich in nutritive salts, will suffer no damage from early frosts. Five elements, in close combination, give us our life and build up creation—Earth, Water, Light, Heat and Air.

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### SCOTCH COLLIE IN COURT

With Assistance of Child Friends Dog  
Comes Out of Difficulty With  
Flying Colors.

A Scotch collie dog was acquitted in police court recently of the charge of being "ferocious and vicious," says a Jackson, Mich., dispatch to the New York World. The complaint, which was directed against the owner, John De Landers, but meant far more to the dog's welfare than to John's, was signed by T. P. Murphy, a street car motorman. Mr. Murphy resides at 210 Bush street and Mr. De Landers at 307 Bush street.

Each of them owns a dog, and recently the two animals participated in a chewing match on Mr. Murphy's front porch. The latter's little girl tried to pass them at the time they were "scrapping" and the Scotch collie snarled and snapped at her, perhaps thinking she was bent on stopping the fight.

Mr. Murphy testified that while the dog did not bite the child and he could not say the canine had ever bitten any one, still he contended the Scotch collie had a disposition to be barking and stirring up a row.

"He is a regular fight promoter and a nuisance in the neighborhood," said the complainant to the judge.

The defendant had brought into court a raft of children who have been in the habit of playing with the dog, and they declared the dog was all right. Then came the dog's turn, and he took the stand in his own defense, jumped up into the witness chair, wagged his tail, blinked his eyes and extended his tongue and shook himself joyously as Judge Dahlem talked to him and asked him if it were true that he was ever naughty.

"He never bites, just plays," remarked one of the children while patting him on the back.

The judge concluded the dog was not vicious or dangerous and returned a verdict of not guilty.

### SHY AT ALL INNOVATIONS

Humanity Slow to Recognize Even the  
Things of Life That Are  
the Best.

Few good things get a hearty welcome when they knock at the door. Human nature shies at innovation, and can be persuaded to adopt it only after pioneers have worn the bluish newness off and stood firm until ridicule has crawled back into its hole.

We hope that the young men who are wearing what the haberdashers call "sport shirts" will prove worthy pioneers, proof against laughter, strong in the face of irrational prejudice. For, by their services, mankind may escape the tyranny of the hard boiled collar. The day may come when the morning wrestling with buttons and buttonholes which hate each other like sin will be like the memory of a boyhood nightmare. That sawmill effect which collars occasionally get and the clammy strangling that goes with humid days will go down in the books as evils conquered. All because a few courageous young men in every community place the good of their fellows above the sensitiveness of their souls.—Toledo Blade.

### REAL ESSENCE OF HUMOR

Conjunction of Things That Are Opposite or Dissonant Are the Most Laughable.

It is well known that the essence of humor is incongruity, the conjunction of things that are opposite or dissonant—as the mingling of manliness and gullibility in Fielding's "Parson Adams," of honesty and knavery in "Gil Blas," or of shrewdness and stupidity in Sancho Panza.

The most laughable of incongruities is that which arises from the clash of dignity and meanness, eminence and vulgarity, the solemn and the comic. The sense of the comic is sometimes enhanced by suffering.

When the soul is filled with gloom, a ludicrous incident becomes the more ludicrous by contrast. An Englishman who poisoned himself by mistake told one of his friends that when suffering agonies he was deeply conscious of the grimly ludicrous aspects under which one circumstance succeeded another.

The exquisite irony of the contrast between his own internal sensations and the sunny indifference or stolid surprise of all around him, while he was in a galloping haste to escape death, made an impression upon him which rose above the pain—as, for instance, when his porter asked for leave to change his shoes before he went for the doctor.

### SEE PORTENTS IN THE STARS

Enthusiastic Frenchmen Profess to  
View Promises of Victory in  
Heavenly "Omens."

Patriotic enthusiasm, now at a high pitch in France, has been seeing in the heavens things which it likes to regard as symbolical of French victory in the war. The most talked of "omen" has been a tricolored star seen over the western horizon last autumn and over the eastern during the winter. Pious astronomers have unkindly identified this marvelous star with Venus, which, like any other heavenly body, shows the spectral colors when it is near the horizon. It is remarkable how often Venus has been taken for something that is not. One would think that no civilized human being could arrive at years of discretion without becoming well acquainted with that lovely planet under her own name, yet her brilliant light in the evening or morning sky is forever starting some wild rumor. In 1787—also a time of patriotic fervor—Venus was hailed in France as the star of Napoleon. In recent years she has most frequently been taken for the light of a spying Zeppelin or aeroplane. It may be added that in some parts of France the "tricolor" star of the last few months was not Venus, but Sirius.

### Monkey Died Like a Man.

The death of Bill Snyder, the baboon of the Central park zoo, from acute indigestion, is chronicled in the day's news. Bill was not one of the higher order of the monkey family; his kinship to the human race, if he had any, was remote. Yet surely in the manner of his death he displayed a simian resemblance to man.

He died as hundreds of thousands of beings higher in the scale of evolution die, as countless numbers of our "best citizens" die—from overeating. He was as reckless in the indulgence of his appetite for food as the most cultivated member of the human family, and if the circumstances of his death excite surprise, it is that his natural instincts did not preserve him from the fate of the most intelligent human beings.

Bill's death points a dietetic moral for monkeys that exchange the nuts and roots of the jungle for the richer food of zoo captivity and idleness. The application of the moral to mankind need not be considered. A vastly greater number of men die from overeating than from starvation, and the death of a humble simian in the circumstances from this characteristically human ailment, may serve to emphasize the fact.—New York